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CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously amended): A gate assembly for diverting substantially flat articles, the gate assembly comprising:

- a mounting bracket having an upright support member and a mounting member secured to the upright support member, the upright support member of the mounting bracket having a first end and a second end;
- at least one protrusion formed on the mounting member;
- a diverter vane having a slot for slidably receiving at least a portion of the upright support member of the mounting bracket;
- at least one recessed area formed in the diverter vane, each recessed area receiving a corresponding protrusion of the mounting member;
- securement means associated with the first end and the second end for releasably securing the diverter vane to the upright support member of the mounting bracket, the securement means including a first groove about the first end of the upright support member of the mounting bracket and a second groove about the second end of the upright support member of the mounting bracket, and further including a first clip positionable within the first groove and a second clip positionable within the second groove; and
- motion means secured to the mounting bracket for selectively moving the combined mounting bracket and diverter vane thereby directing the articles to a predetermined desired location.

Claim 2 (original): The gate assembly of claim 1 wherein the mounting member comprises a first mounting member and a second mounting member.

Claim 3 (original): The gate assembly of claim 2 wherein the first mounting member has two protrusions and the second mounting member has two protrusions.

Claim 4 (original): The gate assembly of claim 1 wherein the slot of the diverter vane has a substantially keyhole shaped configuration.

Claim 5 (original): The gate assembly of claim 4 wherein the slot slidably receives at least a portion of the upright support member and at least a portion of the mounting member.

Claims 6 and 7 (previously canceled).

Claim 8 (original): The gate assembly of claim 1 wherein the motion means has a post, and further comprising:

mounting means associated with the mounting bracket for releasably securing the mounting bracket to the post of the motion means.

Claim 9 (original): The gate assembly of claim 1 wherein the motion means is a solenoid device.

Claim 10 (previously amended): A gate device for diverting and directing articles in a sorting machine, the gate device comprising:

a bracket member mounted to the sorting machine, the bracket member having at least one protrusion, an upright support member having a first end and a second end, and a mounting member secured to the upright support member;

a vane member mounted to the bracket member, the vane member having at least one corresponding recessed area and removable from and mountable to the bracket member without removing the bracket member from the sorting machine, the vane member having a slot for slidably receiving at least a portion of the upright support member; and

securement means associated with the first end and the second end for releasably securing the vane member to the upright support member of the bracket member, the securement means including a first groove about the first end of the upright support member of the bracket member and a second groove about the second end of the upright support member of the bracket member, and further including a first clip positionable within the first groove and a second clip positionable within the second groove;

wherein the combined bracket member and the vane member are selectively movable to direct the articles to a predetermined desired location.

Claim 11 (previously canceled).

Claim 12 (previously amended): The gate device of claim 10 wherein the slot of the vane member has a substantially keyhole shaped configuration.

Claim 13 (original): The gate device of claim 12 wherein the slot slidably receives at least a portion of the upright support member and at least a portion of the mounting member.

Claims 14 and 15 (previously canceled).

Claim 16 (previously amended): A method for replacing a diverter vane in a sorting machine, the method comprising:

- providing a bracket having an upright support member and a mounting member secured to the upright support member;
- forming protrusions on the mounting member;
- forming recessed areas in the diverter vane for receiving the protrusions of the mounting member;
- releasably mounting the diverter vane on at least a portion of the upright support member of the bracket;
- releasably securing the diverter vane on the bracket;
- forming a substantially keyhole shaped slot on the diverter vane; and
- directing the upright support member into the keyhole shaped slot thereby mounting the diverter vane on the bracket.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, and further comprising:

directing the upright support member and at least a portion of the mounting member into the keyhole shaped slot.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 16, and further comprising:

- forming a first groove about a first end of the upright support member;
- forming a second groove about a second end of the upright support member;
- positioning a first clip within the first groove; and
- positioning a second clip within the second groove.

Claim 20 (canceled).